Uniforms for DTC Employees

1647. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of DTC employees eligible for uniforms and washing allowance and the annual expenditure thereon separately;

(b) whether Government are aware that hardly any DTC employees especially drivers and conductors wear the prescribed uniform; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that the DTC crew abide by the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The total number of employees eligible for uniform and washing allowance is 36709. The annual expenditure during 1989-90 in respect of uniform was Rs. 153.28 lakhs and in respect of washing allowance was Rs. 33.69 lakhs.

(b) and (c) There have been some instances where the drivers/conductors on duty were found without uniform. In such cases action is taken and the defaulters are challaned. During January, 1990—July, 1990 379 Challans have been issued to the crew. There are standing instructions that the drivers and conductors must wear proper uniform while on duty. These instructions are repeated in writing as well as on pubic address system in depots. The checking staff is entrusted with the task of checking uniform of the crew on duty and to submit reports against defaulting staff for taking suitable action.

M. C. Road in Chengannoor under National Highways Scheme

1648. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of heavy traffic of MC Road, Erapuzha Bridge at Chengannoor in Kerala has been included in the National Highway expansion scheme; if so, what are the details of the development of this bridge and the cost involved therein; and

(b) whether the same bridge is being widened to cope with the heavy traffic or another bridge is being constructed on an alternative site?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Construction of Erapuzha Bridge on M. C. Road which is a State Highway has been sanctioned under the Central Road Fund scheme in the year 1988 for Rs. 72.00 lakhs. The State Government is reported to be getting the site investigated and is examining the proposal for its widening etc.

DTC's Instructions for Bus Services

1649. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to DTC authorities to improve its service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the result so far achieved and the agency checking its implementaion;

(c) whether Government are aware that 99 per cent of the buses are stopped at the middle of the roads and speed up in second before boarding by the passengers; and

(d) the reasons for the buses running without destination plates clearly indicating in English and Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The performance of DTC is regularly reviewed by the Ministry and instructions are given to them to effect improvements in identified areas. As a result of

steps taken in pursuance thereof, improvements have been registered in different performance indicators, as summarised below:

Particulars	Unit	1988-89	1989-90
Fleet utilisation	%	86.75	89.04
Operational ratio	%	91.91	93.60
KM efficiency	%	92.27	93.44
B/Downs per 10,000 Kms.	No	1.58	0.82
Accident per 1 lakh Kms.	No	1.49	1.21

(c) There have been certain instances of this nature. There have been standing instructions by DTC, reiterated from time to time, to the drivers that they should park their buses at the bus stands and that they should bring the buses to dead halt for safe alighting and boarding of the passengers. The supervisory staff has been also instructed to take action against the defaulters. During the period from 13th June to 16th August, 1990, there have been 307 cases of wrong parking and the erring drivers have been challaned.

(d) While the well-painted destination boards are displayed on the buses operating on regular routes, there are occasions when on account of dislocation of regular service, the buses are required to be diverted on routes other than the scheduled routes. In such situations, route number and destination board happen to be written in chalk, since the destination boards indicating the route on which the bus has been diverted are not available with the bus crew.

Indians in Saudi Arabian Jails

1650. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians imprisoned in Saudi Arabian jails and out of that how many are Keralites;

(b) what were the nature of offences committed by these prisoners; and

(c) what steps Government contemplat eto get these prisoners released who are langunishing in Saudi jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Casualities of Indian People in Saudi Arabia

1651. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals especially Keralites died recently in Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether these deaths are all natural or any foul play involved;

(c) what is the actual cause of the delay in bringing the dead bodies to India; and

(d) whether it was due to non-cooperation of Saudi Government or inaction of our Embassy; if so, the details thereof?